with regard to his being made permanent. That contingency does not arise now.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Without his being appointed in the second grade?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Yes. That necessity does not arise now.

The increase of pay to Village Officers.

68. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have passed any order with regard to the increase of pay to the Village Officers in accordance with the recommendations by the Diwan Peishkar some time ago?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The member is referred to the answer to question No. 88 at the Vrischigam session of the Council, which contains the conclusions of the Government on the subject.

69. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have ever considered that, if the Village Officers are not given proper pay, they will try to get the deficiency by receiving undue presents from the ryots, and thus cause greater hardship to the public?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The question is rather hypothetical. It is a matter of opinion.

Cases of bribery against the Village Officers.

70. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any case of bribery on Village Officers has been brought to the notice of the Government in the last two years, and if so, how many of them were given punishment of any kind for such bad practice?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No such case has been brought to light during the last two years.

71. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any order to the authorities of the department to make all possible enquiries in consultation with persons of some rank in the locality about the character and behaviour of such Village Officers?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No. Enquiries are made by officers of the Government in the manner they think best.

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